

Mary Duncan, Westchester Co. public school teacher of chn. 12-13 years old, led a workshop [built into her general curriculum] early in 1974, as an action project connected with her New York Theological Seminary course of mine in Chappaqua, entitled "What's After Being OK?" Transactional Analysis is a means, but to what end? Biblically, "the glory of God" [throughout the Bible; in the New Testament, often "the Kingdom of God"] is the encompassing end that judges all means and motives. Mary was concerned to encourage the children to speak freely about anything they wanted to speak of--their feelings, politics, religion, no holds barred, no subjects taboo--and all without violating "the separation of church and state," and without insisting on the pale language of "values." Yes, TA is a seductively simple analytic tool; but instead of badmouthing it, why not arm against the idolatrous-panaceic seduction and take advantage of the simplicity? This Mary did in many ways --not least, by the grasp and depth of the questioning in the final examination-- which I here reproduce:

Transactional Analysis is one way of looking at and describing the motivations and actions of people. People sometimes act as individuals, and sometimes they act as groups. When they are motivated to work together, they may produce good works or they may produce evil works, or they may take no action at all.

I. Using a TA approach, analyze the following situations:

- 1. Hundress of Africans are starving because of drought conditions in their country. If our country makes no effort to help these starving Africans, what does it indicate about our people?*
- 2. The religious leaders of our country have asked the people to set aside, and to join in, a world-wide day of prayer for peace in the world.*
- 3. Recently an increase in social security payments was granted by the government. This will mean an increase in income for the aged, the sick, and the handicapped. What is reflected in this action?*
- 4. Hitler influenced many Germans to feel that they were a superior race. He also blamed Jews for poor economic conditions in Germany; he persecuted the Jews when he became dictator.*
- 5. Hundreds of Americans from all part of the U.S. traveled to the South to join Martin Luther King in his Civil Rights March a few years ago.*

II. Do you think that TA used wisely might be helpful in preventing and settling world problems? Write a short but carefully thought out paragraph in answer to this question. Explain your viewpoint and give examples to clarify your position.

I'm impressed both with the quantity/quality of the raw data from the children and with their ingenuity in using/revising the model: it confirms, for one thing, Erikson's stage (reached about age 11) of abstractive power (but now, Nov/74, Newark's schools are teaching philosophy to first-graders! We've been underestimating the kids abstraction-power and compassion-power, both)...E.g., look what they did with question #3 (welfare philo-phy/programming): They developed first, working with all questions, a refined PAC:

P:--CP=critical parent, NP=nurturing parent

A:--NA=needy adult

C:--FC=free child, ScC=scared child, SC=selfish child, AdC=adopted child, AA=angry child.

Demeaning scenarios: NP ("We'll take care of you.") to AdC, who tends also to be AA.

A ("The best way to do this is....") to C, who sees self as FC or A.

On question #4, they saw Hitler as both CP and NP to the German people as NA but also as ScC (vis-a-vis Communism) and as both SC and AC vis-a-vis Jews ("Come on, guys, let's get 'em!").

On question #5, the children revealed rich potentiality for using the model against PC racism toward AA equality of opportunity--become FC together! Free from both NP and CP.

On section II, children drew the double PAC model to show response possibilities to Do we pray or fight for world peace? We need no longer tolerate collusion between CP and ScC--for we know that all want to be FC, are NA, and want to be AA.

TA VIRTUE here: a space-movement game of interaction, displaying ranges of good/evil possibilities (partly offsetting its Freudian past-orientation and its God-neglect).